



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

February 28, 2007

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Sea Scallop Permit Holder:

These attached sea scallop information sheets have been issued to summarize scallop regulations, scallop management programs, and 2007 scallop harvest specifications. There are eight information sheets that address the following aspects of scallop fishery management: General Category Scallop Permits, General Category Scallop Exemption Area Program, General Category Access Area Program, Limited Access Scallop Permits, Limited Access Access Area Program, Scallop Observer Program, Scallop Gear Requirements, and Gear Stowage Requirements.


The table of contents on the following page provides additional detail on each information sheet. These information sheets will also be available on the Northeast Region website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/index.html>. The full text of the regulations is available on our website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>, or you may request a copy by calling (978) 281-9315.

Possession Limit Clarification: There has been confusion regarding the possession limit for general category scallop vessels. The following requirements pertain to all general category scallop vessels:

- General category 1B scallop vessels are prohibited from possessing or landing per trip more than 400 lb of shucked, or 50 bu of in-shell scallops;
- General category 1B scallop vessels may not fish for, possess, or land scallops on more than one trip per calendar day; and
- If using plastic baskets to approximate the possession limit, vessel operators must be aware these baskets may hold more than one U.S. bu of in-shell scallops. Vessel operators must be familiar with the volume of the baskets they are using. The volume of the basket is likely printed on the basket or can be determined by the distributor, dealer, or manufacturer, if operators are unsure of the volume. Ultimately, the vessel operator must ensure that the volume of in-shell scallops on board the vessel does not exceed 50 U.S. bu. One U.S. bu is the equivalent of 35.24 liters (L).

Please address any questions to the Sustainable Fisheries Division by calling (978) 281-9315.

Sincerely,


for Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.



SEA SCALLOP INFORMATION SHEETS

1. General Category Permits

- Overview
- Permit Categories, Possession Limits and Minimum Shell Height
- General Category Fishing Areas
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Requirements
- Gear Requirements
- State Waters Exemption Program

2. General Category Exemption Area Program

- Overview
- Gulf of Maine, Great South Channel, Southern New England Dredge Exemption Areas
- Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area
- Exemption Area Trip Requirements
- Exemption Area Coordinates and Chart

3. General Category Access Area Program

- Overview
- 2007 Access Area Trip Allocations
- Sea Scallop Access Area Trip Requirements
- Yellowtail Flounder Access Area Bycatch Total Allowable Catch
- Seasonal Turtle Chain Mat Requirement
- Vessels Fishing Under Multispecies Days-at-Sea (DAS)
- Access Area Coordinates and Chart

4. Limited Access Permits

- Overview
- Limited Access Permit Categories
- Limited Access Open Area DAS Program
 - 2007 DAS allocations
 - DAS Trip Requirements
 - DAS Trip Crew Limit
 - 2007 DAS Trip Possession Limits and Minimum Shell Height
- VMS Requirements
- State Waters Exemption Program
- Closed Area Coordinates and Chart

5. Limited Access Access Area Program

- Overview
- 2007 Access Area Trip Allocations and Possession Limits
- Access Area Trip Requirements
- Yellowtail Flounder Access Area Bycatch Total Allowable Catch
- Access Area Trip Exchange Program
- Access Area Broken Trip Program
- Access Area Coordinates and Chart

6. Scallop Observer Program Requirements

- Overview
- Trip Notification Requirements
- Observer Service Providers
- Vessel Safety Inspection Requirements
- Vessel Compensation for Observer Coverage and 2007 Observer Set Aside

7. Scallop Gear Requirements

- Scallop Dredge Gear Requirements
 - Maximum dredge width
 - Minimum mesh size
 - Minimum ring size
 - Link restrictions
 - Gear Restrictions and Obstruction Requirements
 - Seasonal Turtle Chain Mat Requirement
 - Dredge Component Part Restrictions
- Scallop Trawl Gear Restrictions
 - Maximum sweep
 - Minimum mesh size
 - Chafing gear and other gear obstructions

8. Gear Stowage Requirements

- Overview
- Trawl Nets
- Scallop Dredge
- Hook Gear
- Sink Gillnet Gear